



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 609, Olympia, WA 98507
(360) 902-1940 Fax (360) 902-2091

Washington Crop Weather

Released: June 23, 2003, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: June 22, 2003
CWP WA-CW2503

Additional Moisture is Needed for Proper Cereal Crop Development Cherry and Strawberry Harvests Were in Full Swing

Field Crops

Dry conditions across the state continued to affect cereal grain crops. Additional moisture is needed for proper heading development. Klickitat County reported grasshopper infestation. Christmas tree growers were concerned about seeding mortality due to the lack of moisture. Overwinter onions were being harvested.

Livestock

Cool and windy conditions were some challenges that most hay producers were contending with last week. First cutting hay harvest was beginning to wind down as second cutting was getting underway. Livestock producers were busy spraying for tansy ragwort and clipping oxeeye. Lack of moisture across the state began to take a toll on range and pastures. Range and pasture conditions were 4% poor, 52% fair, and 44% good.

Fruits and Vegetables

Strawberry and cherry harvests were in full swing. Blueberry, raspberry, and cool weather vegetable producers were busy keeping their crops irrigated. Direct market fruit and vegetable growers were spraying for Canadian thistle. Greenhouse tomato growers reported heavy demands. Rhubarb producers reported a loss due to cool spring weather. The few commercial walnut groves in the state reported heavy infestations as a result of last fall's freeze.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

| Week | Days |
|-----------|------|
| This Week | 6.6 |
| Last Week | 6.8 |

Moisture and Supply

| Item | Percent | | | |
|------------------|---------|----|-----|---|
| | VS | SH | AD | S |
| Topsoil | 4 | 34 | 61 | 1 |
| Subsoil | 1 | 24 | 75 | 0 |
| Irrigation Water | 0 | 0 | 100 | 0 |
| Hay & Roughage | 0 | 1 | 98 | 1 |

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

| Crop/Activity | Percent Completed | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|------|------------|
| | This Week | Last Week | 2002 | 5 Yr. Avg. |
| Spring Wheat Headed | 60 | 33 | 52 | 67 |
| Winter Wheat Headed | 98 | 85 | 91 | 96 |
| Barley Headed | 50 | 23 | 46 | 65 |
| Corn Emerged | 98 | 87 | 94 | 99 |
| Alfalfa Hay 1 st Cutting | 93 | 85 | 94 | 94 |
| Alfalfa Hay 2 nd Cutting | 7 | 5 | 9 | 13 |

Crop Condition*

| Crop | % Acreage | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------|----|----|-----|----|
| | VP | P | F | G | EX |
| Winter Wheat Dryland | 3 | 9 | 26 | 43 | 19 |
| Winter Wheat Irrigated | 0 | 0 | 3 | 87 | 10 |
| Spring Wheat Dryland | 2 | 10 | 47 | 28 | 13 |
| Spring Wheat Irrigated | 0 | 0 | 5 | 95 | 0 |
| Barley Dryland | 2 | 10 | 38 | 34 | 16 |
| Barley Irrigated | 0 | 0 | 5 | 95 | 0 |
| Potatoes | 0 | 0 | 0 | 80 | 20 |
| Corn | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 0 |
| Dry Edible Beans | 0 | 0 | 0 | 65 | 35 |

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clark: The weather turned cool, with highs in the mid-60's and light rain mid-week.

Grays Harbor: Very light showers throughout the week did almost nothing to alleviate the lack of soil moisture, due to an extended dry period. The rural landscape throughout the county was beginning to turn brown. Sweet and field corn growers were relying heavily on irrigation to replenish soil moisture. Blueberry and raspberry growers were also irrigating fields to help fruit development. Christmas tree growers finished insecticide applications on Noble fir. Direct market vegetable growers were spraying Canada thistle. Livestock growers were spraying tansy ragwort and clipping oxeye daisy in pastures and hayfields. Greenhouse tomato growers began the first harvest of fruit for the season and were jubilant with customer demand. Hay harvest continued under nearly ideal harvest conditions. Cooler temperatures throughout the later part of the week, helped to alleviate some moisture stress on plants.

Grays Harbor/Lewis: More and more growers were starting to wish for rain. There were still many with hay down, but concerns were starting to rise over the lack of rainfall. No losses have been reported, but an inch of rain would be welcomed by a majority of farmers.

Kitsap: Crop conditions were ideal during the week. Adequate moisture and temperatures were evident with quantities of strawberries and early vegetables appearing at local Farmer's Markets.

Pierce/South King: There were no unusual weather situations to report during the week. The weather was cool most of the week, and some places received some rain. Strawberry producers were reporting low yield due to plant damage from freezing temperatures in November of 2002. Also, rhubarb producers were reporting losses due to a very cool spring. There may be damage to some row crops due to the couple of very hot days--in the 90's--that occurred earlier this month.

Skagit/Island/SanJuan: The weather has been dry. Crops were in need of rain.

Snohomish/North King: Scattered showers the last half of the week helped the drying soils. Pastures were still growing well. Corn growth was good. Strawberry harvest was underway, and raspberries were ripening.

Snohomish/North King (2nd Report): The last few days of spring felt more like fall, with below normal temperatures prevailing most of the week. The precipitation totals for the month and year were still well below normal. Much needed rain fell several days, with heavy showers at times on Saturday, June 21. Local strawberries were ripe and ready to pick, if you get to them before the slugs do. Cool weather vegetables were doing well. Now, sunshine is needed.

Thurston: The extended dry spell was beginning to take its toll on pastures and non-irrigated cropland. In many instances, pastures stopped growing and existing growth turned brown. The soil was so dry that any field cultivation was resulting in enormous dust clouds. One Christmas tree grower reported minor damage when a stray firecracker burned brush on a road shoulder adjacent to his farm. Other Christmas tree growers were predicting an unusually high rate of seedling mortality due to the lack of soil moisture. Christmas tree growers continued placing roosting stick in Noble fir to prevent leader damage from bird activity. Ag producers were kept unusually busy trying to retain soil moisture with irrigation. Hay producers continued to be jubilant over ideal conditions for harvest. Cooler weather throughout the week helped to alleviate some moisture stress in plants, but the bottom line is that there remains severe lack of soil moisture.

Whatcom: Strawberry harvest was in full swing. The heavy rains that were received over the weekend may have damaged some fruit. Potatoes looked very good. Corn continued to emerge.

Central

Benton: Cherry harvest continued with warehouses reporting excellent quality. Apple thinning, irrigation, and cover sprays were major activities. Asparagus harvest was nearly complete.

Douglas/Chelan: Cherry producers were beginning the harvest. The crop in the area looked good. Moisture would help further the production of wheat, however; the wheat crop looked fairly good given the recent drought. High winds were present most of the week.

Franklin: Cherry picking continued. Potato crops looked

good. Some overwintered onions were being harvested.

Grant: Green pea harvest was about 35 percent complete. Sweet corn planting was nearly complete.

Kittitas: The first cutting of timothy hay was about 40 percent complete. Swathing, tedding, and baling were underway. Efforts were frustrated by very high winds. Cool weather and partial clouds slowed the drying. Livestock were all on pastures and ranges. Irrigation was just beginning on corn. Winter wheat was headed out.

Kittitas (2nd Report): The first cutting of timothy hay was underway. The first cutting of alfalfa was complete. Cultivating sweet corn fields were underway. Ranges and pastures were in good shape.

Klickitat: The weather was unseasonably cold and windy. Winter wheat, hay, and pastures were generally excellent. Spring grains progressed slowly. Grasshopper infestations were in parts of the county.

Yakima: The cherry harvest was underway. Crops looked

good with no major problems reported. Apples were developing without problems. Codling moth infestations were higher than normal. Walnuts in the handful of commercial groves were reporting all types of infestations as a result of last fall's freeze.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures ranged from 13 degrees above normal to 9 degrees below normal, with a trace of precipitation. There were no new crop losses due to weather conditions reported.

Eastern

Adams: Another yo-yo week of temperatures from the low 90's down to the mid-60's with strong wind conditions. Cherry growers began harvesting with reports of very nice crops. Hay growers began to lay down the second cutting of hay. Grain producers waited for the one additional rain that would move harvest projections from average to above average.

Asotin/Garfield: Cool weather was a welcome change from the heat of a week ago. Crops benefitted from the cooler weather, but little or no rain came with the storms. With only a trace of rain in June thus far, crops were in need of additional moisture for proper heading and filling. Hay producers have been swathing and baling hay. Pasture and rangeland could use some rain also.

Stevens: The past week featured temperatures from the 90's to the 40's, with hot, dry weather early in the week and cool, wet weather during the weekend. A front that moved through Friday and Saturday, dumped from .75 to 1 inch of rain. The rain was bad for hay producers caught with windrows or bales in the field, but generally good for all other growers as the soil profile had begun to dry out.

Spokane/Pend Oreille: The temperatures cooled off, which helped reduce further damage to the crops planted on shallow soils. The northern part of the county saw rain showers, but no rain south of Spokane. The crops really need a good rain. The cool weather and the possibility of rain delayed cutting of hay. Some of the bluegrass seed in the county was swathed, but gusty winds were said to be scattering seed on the ground. Yield potential decreases on a daily basis without the rain.

Whitman: The week began with very warm temperatures, but cooled considerably by mid-week, with windy and unsettled conditions. Lack of rainfall in June created dry conditions in the upper soil profile, and spring crops were showing signs of stress. While winter wheat crops were drawing moisture from lower in the soil profile, spring crops (mostly on recrop ground) were in need of a good rain.

Whitman (2nd Report): Cool and windy conditions prevailed throughout the week. Forecast for thunderstorms and rain failed to materialize, but cooler temperatures were welcomed. Crop conditions continued to be very good, but with every passing day the need for rain becomes more apparent. Most operations were working summer fallow and swathing hay.

Weekly Weather Statistics

June 23, 2003

| Station | Air Temperature | | | | Growing Degree Days | | | | Last Week Precipitation | | | Season Precipitation | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|----|-----|-----|---------------------|-----|----------|-----|-------------------------|-------|------|----------------------|--------|----------|------|
| | LO | HI | AVG | DFN | Base 50F | | Base 60F | | Total | | | Total | | % Normal | Days |
| | | | | | TOT | DFN | TOT | DFN | Inches | DFN | Days | Inches | DFN | | |
| WEST | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bellingham | 45 | 77 | 57 | -3 | 52 | -13 | 3 | -7 | 0.35 | -0.07 | 3 | 24.95 | -8.07 | 76 | 138 |
| Everett | 48 | 78 | 57 | -4 | 50 | -21 | 8 | -6 | 0.27 | -0.21 | 2 | 24.20 | -9.16 | 73 | 138 |
| Hoquiam | 47 | 74 | 57 | -1 | 54 | -1 | 2 | -5 | 0.35 | -0.12 | 4 | 60.15 | -4.53 | 93 | 154 |
| Kelso | 43 | 82 | 58 | -3 | 60 | -13 | 10 | -9 | 0.21 | -0.27 | 3 | 23.55 | -20.06 | 54 | 101 |
| Olympia | 42 | 88 | 58 | -2 | 57 | -9 | 8 | -3 | 0.14 | -0.23 | 3 | 36.68 | -11.44 | 76 | 144 |
| Sea-Tac | 48 | 85 | 60 | -3 | 69 | -12 | 17 | -4 | 0.30 | -0.05 | 4 | 31.12 | -3.83 | 89 | 136 |
| Shelton | 42 | 87 | 60 | -2 | 70 | -10 | 10 | -11 | 0.07 | -0.34 | 2 | 54.24 | -8.06 | 87 | 141 |
| Tacoma | 43 | 88 | 59 | -3 | 60 | -20 | 10 | -10 | 0.49 | -0.07 | 3 | 26.43 | -11.25 | 70 | 127 |
| Vancouver | 46 | 89 | 61 | -1 | 79 | -1 | 23 | 2 | 0.21 | -0.15 | 3 | 34.22 | -4.70 | 88 | 136 |
| CENTRAL | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ellensburg | 44 | 92 | 61 | -3 | 76 | -18 | 24 | -9 | 0.00 | -0.14 | 0 | 7.90 | -0.29 | 96 | 80 |
| Omak | 44 | 91 | 64 | 3 | 103 | 15 | 41 | 11 | 0.04 | -0.24 | 2 | 11.82 | -1.20 | 91 | 61 |
| Stampede Pass | 35 | 79 | 48 | -2 | 28 | 10 | 8 | 8 | 1.05 | -0.39 | 5 | 58.53 | -18.45 | 76 | 144 |
| Wenatchee | 49 | 92 | 67 | -1 | 122 | -1 | 52 | -5 | 0.00 | -0.14 | 0 | 8.83 | 1.32 | 118 | 72 |
| Yakima AP | 39 | 94 | 65 | 0 | 107 | -1 | 46 | 2 | 0.00 | -0.14 | 0 | 7.98 | 0.66 | 109 | 58 |
| NORTHEAST | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Colville | 44 | 95 | 66 | 5 | 116 | 30 | 58 | 30 | 0.65 | 0.31 | 2 | 17.33 | -1.60 | 92 | 73 |
| Deer Park | 39 | 89 | 60 | -4 | 70 | -18 | 21 | -9 | 0.09 | -0.19 | 1 | 20.21 | 3.57 | 121 | 95 |
| Spokane AP | 43 | 89 | 61 | -2 | 82 | -10 | 32 | 1 | 0.08 | -0.20 | 1 | 14.90 | 0.08 | 101 | 100 |
| EAST CENTRAL | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ephrata | 46 | 93 | 67 | -3 | 122 | -14 | 55 | -13 | 0.00 | -0.07 | 0 | 7.56 | 1.01 | 115 | 54 |
| Moses Lake | 44 | 94 | 67 | -4 | 118 | -18 | 49 | -19 | 0.00 | -0.07 | 0 | 7.87 | 1.32 | 120 | 72 |
| Quincy | 48 | 90 | 67 | 1 | 122 | 5 | 52 | 1 | 0.00 | -0.09 | 0 | 6.13 | -0.99 | 86 | 51 |
| Ritzville | 39 | 93 | 63 | 0 | 95 | 1 | 39 | 7 | 0.14 | -0.00 | 1 | 11.11 | 0.79 | 108 | 81 |
| SOUTHEAST | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hanford | 46 | 98 | 68 | -5 | 128 | -25 | 62 | -23 | 0.00 | -0.07 | 0 | 8.00 | 2.07 | 135 | 67 |
| Pasco | 46 | 95 | 67 | -3 | 123 | -17 | 53 | -18 | 0.00 | -0.07 | 0 | 7.07 | 0.20 | 103 | 70 |
| Pullman | 39 | 87 | 59 | -2 | 61 | -12 | 13 | -8 | 0.01 | -0.34 | 1 | 9.62 | -9.50 | 50 | 87 |
| Whitman Miss. | 41 | 98 | 66 | -1 | 112 | -3 | 43 | -5 | 0.00 | -0.21 | 0 | 14.32 | 1.82 | 115 | 114 |
| ID PANHANDLE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Coeur D'A' AP | 43 | 90 | 62 | -2 | 86 | -10 | 34 | 1 | 0.04 | -0.42 | 1 | 18.16 | -5.12 | 78 | 99 |
| Lewiston ID | 51 | 96 | 68 | 0 | 127 | 2 | 57 | 0 | 0.03 | -0.25 | 3 | 12.36 | 1.66 | 116 | 109 |

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2002

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

Copyright 2002: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.